

We as Nova Scotians have a sense of our identity. Newfoundlanders have a sense of their identity. I saw the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) earlier. I am sure the Mennonites in Manitoba have a sense of who they are, and the Ukrainians have a sense of who they are, and on and on. We as Canadians have a very proud sense of who we are. We have confidence in who we are.

One could talk about sovereignty. If we are imperilled in our sovereignty going into this agreement, goodness gracious how has Luxembourg survived in the European Economic Community over the last several years?

I could go on, but the hour is late and I will draw to a conclusion. It is very clear what we are here to talk about. We are here to talk about getting on with the business of Canada. We are here to choose between a Government that offers strength, confidence and optimism in the future of Canada, and an Opposition that offers timidity, weakness, fear and pessimism.

Canadians chose Brian Mulroney and the Progressive Conservative Government because they opted for leadership that will develop this country in the 21st century. We are not here to stifle debate. The debate has gone on. When we get home this weekend Members will find out that Canadians do not want to hear the free trade debate anymore. They want us to get on with this legislation, get on with the business of Canada.

I am proud and I will be proud on behalf of the South Shore not only to vote in support of this motion but to vote in support of Bill C-2 when it comes before the House.

Mr. Bob Kilger (Stormont—Dundas): Madam Speaker, I am honoured to be able to make my first speech in this Chamber especially on an issue which is of such importance to Canada and to the people of Stormont—Dundas. I represent a riding which has both a rural and an urban mix. I can tell you that whether or not my constituents are from Cornwall or from some small town in Dundas county, people showed on the night of November 21, just how they felt about free trade.

There are farmers in my riding who fear how free trade will affect their livelihood, how it will affect supply management and how their markets may erode before their very eyes.

In my riding I have several large food processing plants. We were told before the election by the major food processing companies themselves that they will

relocate in the United States if free trade comes into effect. If they do, and this exodus includes those plants in my riding, then the economic tragedy to those workers and to the riding will be substantial.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the electorate of Stormont—Dundas who put their faith in me as their representative in the House of Commons.

[*Translation*]

I shall do all I can to maintain their trust and to represent them to the best of my ability here in this House.

I was elected because the good people of Stormont—Dundas lost confidence in the Conservative Government, but I also believe they elected me because they did not agree with and did not trust the free trade deal proposed by the Conservative Government.

[*English*]

They did not approve of this deal because of fear but because they felt the deal was inadequate. I certainly agree with their assessment. As the representative of Stormont—Dundas and as a Canadian I strongly disagree with the free trade deal. I cannot let the concerns of my constituents be ignored and I cannot let this debate go by without registering their concerns in this House. I take much pleasure and pride in speaking tonight in this debate, but the seriousness of this issue must not be lost.

The unemployment figures in Cornwall are already high. As well, Cornwall ranked ninety-ninth out of 100 Canadian cities in terms of income. The free trade deal will, I believe, only add to the economic woes of Stormont—Dundas. We cannot afford plant closures in Stormont—Dundas. We cannot afford the destruction of the family farm and we cannot afford the elimination of small businesses, Canadian small businesses.

• (0020)

The electors of Stormont—Dundas cannot afford the free trade deal. The voters in my riding, like many others in eastern Ontario, showed that they cannot afford to put their future in the hands of the Conservatives.

I will monitor the factories and businesses in my riding. I will monitor the agricultural and agri-food industries, and I will monitor the textile plants. I will not tell my constituents how sorry I am that they face layoffs and dismissals. I will tell them that they can lay the blame at the feet of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney).